

REMARKS

Filed concurrently herewith is a request for a One Month Extension of Time which extends the shortened statutory period for response to March 16, 2005. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this response is being timely filed.

The Official Action dated November 16, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully noted. In view thereof, claims 1-5 have been amended in order to better define that which Applicants regard as the invention. As previously, claims 1-5 are presently pending in the instant application.

With reference now to the Official Action and particularly page 2 thereof, the disclosure has been objected as including a minor informality. Specifically, the Examiner notes that reference to the print section as reference number 6 is not set forth on page 26, line 16. In this regard, as can be seen from the foregoing amendments to the specification page 26, line 16 has been amended to include reference numeral 6 following the phrase "print section". Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that applicants' specification is now in proper formal condition for allowance.

With reference to paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Official Action, claims 2 and 5 have been objected to as including minor informalities. In this regard, as can be seen from the foregoing amendments the informalities noted by the Examiner have been cured. Consequentially, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' claimed invention is now in proper formal condition for allowance.

With reference to paragraph 4 of the Official Action, claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Examiner notes that claim 5 recites "to transfer the same to a component rearward of the signal processor when it is not mounted". As the Examiner notes from the specification, the specification describes transferring the same to a component forward of a signal processor when it is not mounted. Accordingly, as can be seen from the foregoing amendments, claim 5 has been amended to properly recite that the switching means is provided to transfer data to the signal processor module through its input port when it is mounted on the mounting means and to transfer the same to a component forward of the signal processor module when it is not mounted on the mounting means. Accordingly, it is

respectfully submitted that applicants' claimed invention as set forth in claim 5 is now in proper formal condition for allowance.

With reference to paragraph 5 of the Official Action, claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,903,574 issued to Lyons. This rejection is respectfully traversed in that the patent to Lyons neither discloses nor suggests that which is presently set forth by Applicants' claimed invention.

As the Examiner can readily appreciate, the present invention as set forth in independent claim 1, is directed to an image processing apparatus including at least two signal processor modules interconnected with each other in series, each of these signal processor modules having an input port through which data is input, a memory which stores data, a signal processor portion which carries out processing on input data according to a program and an output port through which data is output, wherein at least one of the signal processor modules outputs both unprocessed input data and processed data obtained by processing the input data. It is respectfully submitted that the patent to Lyons fails to disclose or suggest these features.

Particularly, it is noted that Lyons relates to a Studio to Transmitter Link (STL) which is a wireless transmission path that carries a TV program or similar program to a transmitter. This reference relates to the Inter City Relays (ICR) and Transmitter-To-Studio Links (TSL), which have essentially the same function, that is, to transport high-quality audio signals between two fixed points. With respect to Applicants' claimed invention, the present invention relates to an image processing apparatus and not an STL.

Furthermore, the image processing disclosed by Lyons relates to encoding/decoding processing before and after communication by an STL. As the Examiner can really appreciate, the present invention is directed to the image processing for a printing system which is significantly different from that set forth by Lyons. Moreover, as referred in independent claim 1, the DSP modules of the present invention outputs both unprocessed input data and processed input data at the same time. It is noted that the decoder 136 of Lyons outputs one of the unprocessed input data and processed data. That is, the Lyons reference discloses outputting either the unprocessed input data or the processed data. As noted in col. 3, lines 40-42 of Lyons "the decode processor of 136 receives and processes the delivered data stream S8 and passes the processed or unprocessed data stream S9 to the

transmitter.” Clearly, the decoder 136 outputs only one kind of data not both the unprocessed input data and processed input data as is set forth in accordance with applicants’ claimed invention. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants’ claimed invention as set forth in independent claim 1 clearly distinguishes over the teachings of Lyons.

With reference to paragraph 6 of the Office Action. Claims 2-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C., 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lyons in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,978,831 to Ahamed et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed in that the patent to Ahamed does nothing to overcome the aforementioned shortcomings associated with the teachings of Lyons.

In rejecting applicants’ claimed invention, the Examiner notes that Lyons fails to specifically teach the input, processing and output as being controlled synchronously within cycles. Although Ahamed may set forth such a teaching, it is respectfully submitted that Ahamed et al. fails to disclose that at least one of the signal processor modules outputs both unprocessed input data and processed data obtained by processing the input data as specifically recited by Applicants’ claimed invention. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants’ claimed invention as set forth in independent claim 1 as well as dependent claims 2-4 clearly distinguish over the combination proposed by the Examiner and are in proper condition for allowance.

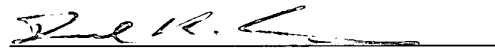
With reference to paragraph 7 of the Official Action, claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lyons in view of U.S. Patent 4,777,590 issued to Durkos et al. This rejection is likewise respectfully traversed in that the patent to Durkos fails to overcome aforementioned shortcomings associated with the teachings of Lyons.

Again as noted hereinabove Lyons fails to disclose or suggest that the signal processor outputs both unprocessed input data and processed data obtained by processing the input data. Furthermore, while the patent to Durkos may disclose a system with multiple functional modules for performing computing tasks, this references fails to disclose or suggest that the signal processor outputs both unprocessed input data and processed data obtained by processing the input data. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants’ claimed invention as set forth in dependent claim 5 which includes all the limitations of independent claim 1 clearly distinguishes over the combination proposed by the Examiner and is in proper condition for allowance.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing it is respectfully requested that the objections and rejections of record be reconsidered and withdrawn by the Examiner, that claims 1-5 be allowed and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner believe a conference would be of benefit in expediting the prosecution of the instant application he is hereby invited to telephone counsel to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,



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